

applied to a wellbore screen and as will be discussed more fully hereafter, this limitation should patentably define the present invention over the prior art.

The Examiner has objected to Claims 8, 14, and 15, but Applicant gratefully acknowledges that these three claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has rewritten these claims in independent form as advised by the Examiner.

The remaining Claims 1-7, 9-13, and 16-19 stand rejected as being anticipated by several different patents. Specifically, Claims 1, 2, 5, and 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Gupta et al. Claims 1, 5, 6, and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Dawson et al. Claims 1, 2, 5, and 9-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Burnham et al. Claims 1-5 and 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by King. Claims 1, 2, 5, 16, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Clark et al. Claims 1-3, 5, 7, 9-13, 16, 18, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Muir et al. Claims 1, 5, and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Amin et al. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Acker et al. Claims 1-3, 5, 7, 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Gonzalez et al. Claims 1 and 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kowalski et al. Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 9-13, and 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Norman et al.

The Gupta et al., Dawson et al., Burnham et al., King, Muir et al., Amin et al., Acker et al, and Norman et al. patents each teach encapsulated breakers for

hydraulic fracturing fluids. Clark and Kowalski teach encapsulated products for slow release of chemicals in a wellbore such as corrosion or scale inhibitors. Gonzalez teaches use of encapsulated acid in acid fracturing treatments. None of these patents teach applying a coating to a wellbore screen for the dual purposes of preventing the wellbore screen from being damaged as it is inserted into the wellbore and of quickly dissolving, degrading or dispersing potentially plugging materials, such as drilling mud filtercake, from around the wellbore screen once the wellbore screen is placed in the wellbore, thereby preventing plugging of the screen when the well is placed in service.

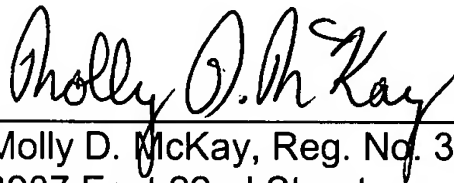
Applicant has amended independent Claim 1 to include the limitation that the chemical binder is applied to a wellbore screen. All of Applicant's remaining claims, with the exception of rewritten claims 8, 14, and 15, depend upon Claim 1 and therefore include this same limitation. Therefore, Applicant believes that Claims 1-7, 9-13, and 16-19 patentably define the present invention over the teaching of the cited art.

The Examiner also requests information as to the date on which the SELECT INDUSTRIES reference was obtained for purposes of determining whether that reference will be prior art. The reference is information taken directly from the company's product catalogue and was obtained by Applicant in January 2000. However, the teaching of this reference is to acid and foam sticks that are designed to be dropped through a wellhead opening down a wellbore to treat the well and are not applied to a wellbore screen prior to inserting the wellbore screen into the well, as taught in the present invention.

It is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited.

Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$253.00 which represents \$43.00 for one additional independent claim in excess of three at the small entity rate and \$210. 00 for two months extension fees, also at the small entity rate. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees to the deposit account of the undersigned, No. 13-0470.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures:

Amended claims

Petition for 2 month extension of time (in duplicate)

Check for \$253.00 (includes \$210.00 for 2 mo. extension fee at small entity rate and \$43.00 for one additional independent claim at the small entity rate.)

[F:\Linda's Docs\Constien, Vernon\Divisional Application\Product for Coating Wellbore Screens\Amen & ROA-1]